

LITERARY NOTES.

The title of the new story which Mr. Henry James has contributed to *The Century* is "A New-England Winter." It is to be hoped that the little tale will be better than his last work, "Pandora." This was, in truth, a complete failure.

Mr. Robert Louis Stevenson, who is recovering from his recent severe illness, has nearly ready for publication "The Children's Garden," a book of poems.

Philip Gilbert Hamerton says in his forthcoming volume of essays that in religious matters "There are two causes which are gradually effecting a great change, and as they are natural causes, they are irresistibly powerful. One is the process of an analytical detachment, by which sentiments and feelings once believed to be religious are now found to be separable from religion. The second cause is even more serious in its effects. We are acquiring the habit of explaining everything by natural causation, and of trying to remedy everything by the employment of natural means."

An English little printed in London in 1812, and in an excellent state of preservation, is for sale in Chey Creek, Miss.

Mr. Stimson, the author of "Guerndal," proposes to write three other novels, forming a complement to his "Crime of Henry Vane," the four illustrating phases of love in modern society.

Mr. George Alfred Townsend writes thus, as the author of "The Initiated Hat," to *The Literary World* of Boston: "Let me thank you for not having hit me with a club for the crime of writing an American romance. Reviews I am more familiar with always receive a new native author as Captain Cook was received by the sand-wich islanders. In this case, as steady encouragement has done our home creative literature as it seems to have done our foreign, I will add the subsidy bills. Especially has this marked conduct been bestowed upon newspaper writers venturing to pass themselves off as Lamb's in the paper which claims the largest circulation of any journal or periodical in the world that emitted *Tribute* and published in London. It contains extracts and expedites copyright matter, and its proprietor is said to have a net income from it of about \$6000 a week."

Who would miss from English literature Lamb's immortal essay of Roast Pig? If the idea of the discoverer of the delicious swine was a plagiarism, as Lamb himself acknowledged that it was, he was surely as a plagiarist fully justified. The lover of Lamb will therefore not be much concerned over this paragraph in *Notes and Queries*: "C. C. M., also the rest of us, would not willingly pluck any literary laurels from Charles Lamb's brow, but there is another 'adaptation,' if plagiarism is too grave a word.' A quaint volume of forty-six pages, once in 'Charles Lamb's library' (according to a pedigree note in the volume) is before me, entitled 'Gi' Elogi del Porco, Capitelli Bernasci di Tigrane, Bistioni P. A., & Accademico Ducale de' Dissantini di Modena. In Modena per gli Eredi di Bartolomeo Soliani Stampatori Ducale MOCUL. Con Licenza de' Superiori.' Some former owner of the volume has copied out Lamb's prose with many exact verbal resemblances from the poem, which cannot have been accidental."

The June number of Van Nostrand's *Engineering Magazine* completes the twentieth volume of that excellent publication. The number of "One Summer" has written a short story for the next number of *St. Nicholas*.

"Perley" says that Thackeray, when in Washington, made himself at home among the journalists and was always asking questions. He took a great deal of interest in old Major Lane, a "huntsman from Kentucky," half horse and half alligator," but gentlemanly in his manners and partial to whiskey, ruffled shirts, gold-headed canes and draw poker. The Major had fought—so he said—under Jackson at New Orleans, under Houston at San Jacinto, and under Zach Taylor at Buena Vista, and he was then presenting a claim before Congress for his services as an agent among the Yavapai Indians. "It was better than a play to hear him talk, and to observe Thackeray as he listened."

It was Major Carmichael Smith, the second husband of Thackeray's mother Anne Becher Thackeray, who is believed to have been the prototype of Colonel Newcome.

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